KP govt to set up two more universities despite financial, enrolment issues

Most varsities struggle to pay current, former staff members, say officials

By Mohammad Ashfaq

PESHAWAR: At a time when almost all public universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are teetering on the brink of collapse due to financial crisis and low enrolment rates, the provincial government is moving ahead with plans to establish two more institutions of higher learning in the province.

Currently, KP, with a population over 40 million, has 34 government universities. Punjab has the same number of public universities for its 127 million population, which is three times more than KP's.

KP Chief Minister Mohammad Sohail Afridi recently directed the higher education department to work on the proposal of establishing the Arshad Sharif University in the province as well as another varsity in his native Khyber tribal district.

The directives generated a debate among academia and the higher education department regarding why the government is going to set up more varsities instead of strengthening the existing ones, which are strapped for cash.

Official at the higher education department told *Dawn* that five oldest universities in the province, including University of Peshawar, University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar, Agriculture University Peshawar, Islamia College University Peshawar and Gomal University Dera Ismail Khan, were unable to pay salaries to their employees and pension to former staff members.

They also claimed that financial crisis was likely to hit the University of Science and Technology Bannu, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, University of Swat, University of Chitral, University of Buner, University of Sheringal, University of Shangla, Agriculture University Dera Ismail Khan within the next few months.

An official wondered, "Right now when the KP government is unable to smoothly run several decades-old varsities, what is the rationale for setting up new ones and what future will lie ahead for them."

A senior government official told *Dawn* a degree college at district level required to have a student strength of 3,000, whereas several of those universities had a few hundred students enrolled in them.

Dawn has learnt that the University of Engineering and Applied Sciences Swat has 184 students enrolled in several BS programmes and 24 in MS courses but regular faculty members totalled five, including an assistant professor and four lecturers.

Similarly, student enrolment is 210 at University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Swat, 353 at University of Agriculture Swat, 515 at University of Technology Nowshera, 744 at University of Fata, 1,165 at University of Chitral, 1,260 at University of Lakki Marwat and 1,800 at Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak.

Recently, University of Peshawar closed down nine disciplines over low admission rate in the respective Bachelor of Studies (BS) programmes.

The courses include development studies, geography, geology, history, social anthropology, statistics, logistics and supply chain analytics, human development and family studies and home economics, according to official documents.

Several public universities, including UoP, haven't finished the admission process for fall semester due to poor response of potential students, forcing these universities to advertise their admission programme time and again, according to a teacher.

He said that the UoP had advertised its admission programme three times but still the required enrolments were missing.

Federation of All Pakistan Universities Academic Staff Association (FAPUASA) KP president Dr Dilnawaz Khan told *Dawn* that currently, 34 public sector universities had been functioning in the province but unfortunately, all of them were facing financial issues, which had hit salary payment to employees.

He said that old universities in KP were facing more problems.

"Certain universities have opened irrelevant disciplines aiming to collect fees from students and manage their affairs," he said, adding that majority of universities face the enrolment issue.

Dr Khan said besides the provincial government, the Higher Education Commission was also responsible for the mushroom growth of universities in the province as without the latter's approval, institutions of higher education couldn't be opened. He said currently, universities were focusing on arranging salaries and pensions for employees, while there were no funds for research, their prime responsibility

"Other than white boards and a marker, no electronic gadgets, which are very useful in teaching, can be seen inside university classrooms," he said, adding that no university was working on research development.

Peshawar University Teachers Association president Dr Zakirullah told *Dawn* that employees of the University of Peshawar observed a week long strike in September due to the inability to pay salaries and pension. He said that the former employees of UoP got pensions three weeks late in the month of October.

"The next two months will be tough for the university administration to pay salaries and pension as it is short of funds," he said.

Foreign workers' security beefed up in Kohistan

By Our Correspondent

MANSEHRA: The Lower Kohistan police have tightened security for foreigners working on the Dasu and Diamer-Basha hydropower projects or travelling between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan via Karakoram Highway.

"We have zero tolerance for any negligence in ensuring foolproof security to foreigners engaged in energy projects or those passing through the Karakoram Highway," said district police officer Abdul Salam Khalid during a meeting held at his office in Dasu on Saturday.

The meeting, held to review security arrangements for foreigners, was attended by the deputy superintendents of police headquarters and Pattan circle, the head of the international desk and SHOs of all police stations in the district.

"All entry and exit points leading to the Dasu and Diamer-Basha project sites from our district will remain completely sealed. No outsider, except authorised workers and staff, will be allowed access to the working areas," Mr Khalid said.

He added that since the suspension of traffic between KP and GB through the Mansehra-Naran-Jalkhad Road following heavy snowfall in Kaghan Valley, most foreigners were now travelling via the Karakoram Highway and must be provided complete protection.

"The police will escort all foreigners entering Lower Kohistan and hand them over safely to the police of the next district, reroute to neighbouring GB and vice versa," he said.

Mr Khalid emphasised that foreigners working on development and energy projects or passing through the area were "guests of Pakistan" and should be extended both hospitality and complete security.

"The Chinese engineers and workers engaged in the Dasu and Diamer-Basha hydropower projects are contributing to Pakistan's development and prosperity by helping bridge the electricity shortfall," he added.

He also directed the personnel deployed at police posts to be professional and highly polite whenever dealing with foreigners on their soil.

AWARENESS ABOUT MEASLES-RUBELLA: Deputy Commissioner Mian Behzad Adil on Saturday sought the support of ulema, teachers and media representatives to help raise awareness and prevent the spread of measles-rubella, saying the viral disease has once again turned lethal in the district.

"We are set to launch an anti-measles-rubella vaccination drive as fresh cases of this deadly disease have been reported not only in Mansehra but across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. All segments of society, particularly religious scholars, teachers, and the media, should play their proactive role in preventing its spread," Mr Adil said while addressing a workshop held at his office.

The event was attended by ulema, media persons and officials of the health and district administration departments.

District health officer Dr Shah Faisal Zaman coordinator of the measles and rubella campaign for Abbottabad and Mansehra districts Dr Mohammad Siddique, World Health Organisation surveillance officer Dr Asim and others also spoke on the occasion.

Mr Adil said that preparations had been finalised for the vaccination campaign, which would be launched across 192 village and neighbourhood councils of the district from November 17 to 19.

Three killed in grenade blast inside Bara house

KHYBER: Three persons were killed and another was injured when a hand grenade went off 'accidentally' inside a house in Bara tehsil of Khyber district on Saturday.

Police said that the incident took place inside the house of Dawlat Mir in Malakdinkhel area where an inmate of the house mistakenly pulled the string of the hand grenade.

They said that three persons, identified as Dawlat Mir, Haroon and Rahmatullah, died on the spot, while another person, Habibullah, received injuries and was later taken to Dogra Hospital. Police were investigating the actual cause of the blast after registering a case.

Meanwhile, tribal elders and activists of various political parties from Landi Kotal held a protest demonstration against the proposed establishment of a toll plaza on the main Peshawar Torkham Highway.

They said that local residents in general and transporters and traders in particular were hard hit by repeated closure of Torkham border and imposition of additional taxes both by the federal and provincial governments in the recent past.

They said the toll tax would be an additional financial burden on the traders and transporters, which they could not afford and thus they opposed the establishment of the toll plaza. — Correspondent

Violence against polio teams on the decline

KP records better vaccination coverage

By Ashfaq Yusufzai

PESHAWAR: The incidence of violence against health workers during door-to-door polio campaigns has declined in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, ensuring the vaccination coverage of children who were previously inaccessible due to security reasons.

Officials said that the number of violent incidents against polio teams had decreased in the current year due to foolproof security measures, as four policemen and one civilian were killed and three police officials suffered injuries. Also, 17 health workers were kidnapped during house-to-house vaccination campaigns.

Official data shows that a total of 96 people have been killed by alleged terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa since 2012 and they included 61 policemen, 27 health workers and five civilians. Also, 170 people, including 124 policemen, 28 health workers and 21 civilians, were injured in attacks on polio teams.

During this period,32 health workers, three civilians and one policeman were kidnapped during vaccination campaigns.

Of the people who were subjected to violence in the shape of death, injuries and kidnapping, 283 were men and 18 women, according to an official report.

However, the current year has proved to be relatively peaceful, enabling health workers to bring down the number of children who missed polio drops earlier either due to vaccination refusal by their parents or for being accessible to vaccinators in security-compromised areas.

Officials said that it was a welcome sign for the polio programme as health workers would be able to reach most children targeted in polio drives.

They said the continued violence against polio teams had also caused scare among health workers, so the number of unvaccinated children continued to rise.

The officials, however, said that in the current year, vaccinators were covering more children than those vaccinated in previous years due to enhanced supervision and surveillance both from the government and Emergency Operations Centre for Polio.

They said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had recorded 18 polio cases, most in the countrywide tally of 29, due to strong surveillance, which led to the collection of "most samples from suspected children."

The officials said Sindh had recorded nine polio cases, while one case each was reported in Punjab and GB. A recent report by the Independent Monitoring Board, which works on behalf of international donor agencies, said that Pakistan faced continued transmission in core reservoirs, particularly southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, alongside ongoing operational challenges that include missed children, security constraints and the urgent need for strengthened essential immunisation systems.

According to an IMB report released in September, security assessments have revealed a more nuanced picture than is often portrayed.

Of Pakistan's 45.4 million target children, only 1.2 million face direct security constraints, primarily those in southern parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The report, titled "The Glass Mountain," said that escalating circulation in southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with more than 100,000 unreached children represented the most immediate threat to interruption of transmission.

It noted that there were persistent access constraints and accumulated vulnerability, while many children missed vaccination in rounds after rounds, so intensive new approaches were required.

The polio programme has divided south Khyber Pakhtunkhwa into three categories, including green areas (71 per cent of the population, 159 union councils) with good access but quality challenges; community-led vaccination initiative areas (20 per cent of the population, 80 union councils) utilising community-led approaches; and black areas (nine per cent of the population, 26 union councils) requiring intensive engagement to achieve house-to-house access.

Officials said that new strategies and approaches were paying off with the unprecedented support of the government and security forces.

They said the innovative strategies had strengthened security due to which the vaccinators felt secure and took part in the campaign fearlessly.

The officials also said that recently, health secretary Shahidullah Khan transferred three district health officers and one district coordinator for showing laxity in polio drives.

They said that chief secretary Shahab Ali Shah, as the chairman of the provincial task force on polio, was likely to take action against the deputy commissioners and assistant commissioners for similar reasons.

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Head Product Management Unit – Transactional Banking Division
Location: Head Office - Peshawar

Head Service Delivery Unit – Transactional Banking Division
Location: Head Office - Peshawar

MIS Officer – Product Management & Service Delivery Department - TBD
Location: Head Office - Peshawar

Branch Managers
Location: Karachi, Quetta, Gujrat, Chiniot, Kotli – AJK, Doodiyal - AJK

Branch Operations Manager
Location: Kotli, Doodiyal (AJK)

Branch Services Officers
Location: Kotli, Doodiyal (AJK)

Note: In case the degree is obtained from a foreign university, equivalency certificate from HEC is to be submitted by the candidates at the time of interview to validate the required education.

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INVITATION TO BID

Sealed E-Bids are invited through SAP Ariba from eligible contractors with adequate past relevant experience and financial capabilities for the below captioned tender(s):

Sr. #	Tenders Description	Tender No.	Bidding Procedure	Tenders Availability
1	Services required for ISO 27001:2022 Certification	IT-A4790-SI	Single Stage – Two Envelope	These tenders will be available through SAP Ariba Portal Only
2	Providing Services for Replacement of Canopy Top Sheet and False Ceiling at Mughal PS(CF)-Karachi	RF-19215-SI		
3	Services Required for Zoom Sign Vetting Near Islamabad.	PM-19156-SIR		
4	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Automatic Gear Box and Dashboard Information Device for Hydrant Servicers at PSO Karachi Aviation Station.	AM-19218-IA		
5	Misc Civil works recuired at Energy – 2, CF site, KHI DIV	RC-19219-AS		

TENDER FEE: - Pak Rupees 2,000/- (Non-Refundable) in favour of Pakistan State Oil Company Limited. (For Each Tender)

FOR S. NO. 1 TO 5	DATE	TIME
BID DOCUMENTS COLLECTION (**THROUGH SAP ARIBA**)	From 10.11.2025 till 24.11.2025	08:30 AM to 04:30 PM
BID SUBMISSION (**THROUGH SAP ARIBA**)	25.11.2025	Till 02:15 PM
BID OPENING (**THROUGH SAP ARIBA**)	25.11.2025	03:00 PM Onwards

NOTE: For Single Stage Two Envelope bidding procedure, commercial bid opening date and time will be communicated later to the technically qualified bidders only.

Note:
- For collection of tender documents of Tender# RC-19219-AS PEC Certificate C6 or above is required .

Note:
Any party interested to participate in any of the tender(s) may send its request for tender documents through SAP Ariba Portal in the following manner:

1. Scanned copy of the duly signed and stamped request on official letterhead of the bidder shall be uploaded on SAP Ariba Portal. In the subject recues: letter, please mention "Tender Documents Collection Request – Tender No._____".
2. Request shall be accompanied by scanned copies of the follcwing:
   a. Valid NTN, GST/PST certificates, CNIC of owner/ authorized representative. Vendor should be an active tax payer.
   b. Evidence of deposit of Rs. 2,000/- (mentioning the tender #) as Tender Fee in the followirg bank account:
   Title of Account - PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED
   IBAN: PK30 HABB 0007 8640 3245 3217
   Account No. 0786-40-3245-3217 Branch code 0786 HBL Plaza Branch
   I.I. Chundrigar Road,
   Karachi.

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: Supply of Lubricants Additives (IMP-59) on CFR basis

Tender # LC-19160-UK **(Email: Usama.khatri@psopk.com), Ext: 2230**

Reference to our original Press advertisement dated 22.11.2025 for the subject tender. Please note that the Bid Collection, Submission and Bid Opening Dates have been revised as follows:

PARTICULARS	DATE	TIME
TENDER DOCUMENT COLLECTION	UP TO 17.11.2025	08:30 AM to 04:30 PM
BID SUBMISSION (**THROUGH SAP ARIBA**) END DATE & TIME	18.11.2025	02:15 PM
BID OPENING (**THROUGH SAP ARIBA**) DATE & TIME	18.11.2025	03:00 PM ONWARDS

All other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged.

Please note that interested vendors not having Ariba Network ID are requested to register themselves on SAP Ariba Portal by clicking or the link below to access and participate in upcoming PSO tenders.

https://tenderpso.com.pk:8022/

The bidders are urged to visit PSO & PPRA websites regularly for any further changes that may be updated by the Company, from time to time.

This advertisement is also available on PSO website www.psopk.com/procurement and PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk

DISPOSAL OF MISCELLANEOUS SCRAP, LYING AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS OF PSO, ON AS AND WHERE BASIS

Sealed E-Bids are invited through SAP Ariba from eligible contractors for the below captioned tender(s):

SR. #	TENDERS DESCRIPTION	TENDER NO	BIDDING PROCEDURE	TENDERS AVAILABILITY
1	Disposal of Miscellenous Scrap at LMP "A" Keamari "A"	ARR-2230-25-HR	Single stage - one envelope	Tenders are available on SAP Ariba
2	Disposal of Vehicle Mazda Double Cabin Pick-Up at Lahore Airport (NTCL)	ARR-1717-22-HR		

SCHEDULE:	DATE	TIME
TENDER DOCUMENTS COLLECTION START AND END (**THROUGH SAP ARIBA**) DATE AND TIME.	From 10.11.2025 to 24.11.2025	08:30 AM to 04:30 PM
BID SUBMISSION (**THROUGH SAP ARIBA**)	26.11.2025	TILL 2:15 PM
BID OPENING (**THROUGH SAP ARIBA**)	26.11.2025	03:00 PM Onwards

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Any party interested to participate in any of the tender(s) may send its request for tender documents through SAP Ariba Portal in the following manner:

1. Scanned copy of the duly signed and stamped request letter of the bidder shall be uploaded on SAP Ariba Portal. In the subject request letter, please mention "Tender Documents Collection Request – Tender No._____".
2. Request shall be accompanied by scanned copies of the following:
   a. Valid NTN, GST certificate (if available), CNIC of owner/ authorized representative. Vendor should be an active tax payer.
   b. Evidence of deposit of Rs. 2,000/- (mentioning the tender #) as Tender Fee in the following bank account:
   Title of Account - PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED
   IBAN: PK30 HABB 0007 8640 3245 3217 Account No. 0786-40-3245-3217
   Branch code: 0786 HBL Plaza Branch, I.I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi.
3. HSE, SOP and terms & conditions compliance is necessary where applicable.

This advertisement is also available on PSO website www.psopk.com/procurement

Please note that interested vendors not having Ariba Network ID are requested to register themselves on SAP Ariba Portal by clicking on the link below to access and participate in upcoming PSO tenders.
https://tenderpso.com.pk:8022/

The bidders are urged to visit PSO & PPRA websites regularly for any further changes that may be updated by the Company, from time to time.

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2ND FLOOR, PSO HOUSE, KHAYABAN-E-IQBAL, CLIFTON, KARACHI TEL: 111-111-PSO (776), Ext: 2257, 2237, & 2281
Website: www.psopk.com/procurement